

36. (Twice amended) An isolated protein with differentiation-inducing activity on Friend erythroleukemia cell lines comprising the following properties:

induces differentiation in Friend erythroleukemia cell lines with hemoglobin formation;

a molecular weight in the range of about 10-60 kDa as determined by gel filtration on a cross-linked allyl dextran [Sephacryl S300®];

optionally with an expression of the corresponding mRNA in primary cells of the thymus, fetal liver, adult spleen, or bone marrow;

[optionally] is encoded by a cDNA comprising repeat sequences SEQ ID NOS: 6 and 7;

[optionally] with corresponding mRNA species of different length comprising identical 3' regions corresponding to the coding region of SEQ ID NO: 2, but different 5' regions.

37. (Twice amended) Protein according to claim 36, wherein said protein comprises at least one of the following features:

said protein is encoded by a corresponding mRNA which shows an [a stable] in vitro upregulation and/or accumulation [expression] if a three day [an] allogenic spleen cell reaction is carried out with non-irradiated, not pretreated spleen cells of mouse strains CBA and C57B1/6;

having AT rich regions in the cDNA, the 3' part of which encodes [encoding] the protein;

inducible by a serum factor present in fetal calf serum.

38. (Twice amended) Protein according to claim 36, wherein one or more of the repeat sequences SEQ ID NOS: 6-10 [presented in Table 3] or of repeat sequences hybridizing to these repeat sequences under stringent conditions are present in the DNA encoding the protein, said stringent conditions comprising hybridization at 65°C in an aqueous solution.

Please add the following new claims:

--71. Protein according to claim 36, wherein one or more of the repeat sequences SEQ ID NOS: 6-10 or of repeat sequences hybridizing to these repeat sequences under stringent conditions are present in the DNA encoding the protein, said stringent conditions comprising hybridization at 42°C in 50% formamide and subsequent washing of the filter at 60°C in an aqueous solution having a salt concentration of 15 mM NaCl and a concentration of SDS of 0.1%.

72. An isolated protein with differentiation-inducing activity on Friend erythroleukemia cell lines comprising the following properties:

induces differentiation in Friend erythroleukemia cell lines with hemoglobin formation;

a molecular weight in the range of about 10-60 kDa as determined by gel filtration on a cross-linked allyl dextran;

optionally with an expression of the corresponding mRNA in primary cells of the thymus, fetal liver, adult spleen, or bone marrow;

is encoded by a cDNA comprising repeat sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 6 and 7 or sequences which hybridize with said repeat sequences under stringent conditions;

with corresponding mRNA species of different length comprising identical 3' regions corresponding to the coding region of SEQ ID NO: 2 or sequences which hybridize with said coding region under stringent conditions, but different 5' regions, said stringent conditions comprising hybridization at 65°C in an aqueous solution or at 42°C in 50% formamide and subsequent washing of the filter at 60°C in an aqueous solution having a salt concentration of 15 mM NaCl and a concentration of SDS of 0.1%.--